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Special Announcement -- Get Batty with Us in Austin for IOL 2006!

If you haven't already registered for IOL it's time to do so! This year's Innovations in Online Learning is an event you don't want to hear about second-hand from friends when you could be here in Austin sharing best practices with colleagues and having fun at the same time. Here's an overview of what to expect:

Pre-conference Workshops:

There will be four pre-conference workshops. There is bound to be one for you! Check them out! Check out this page for workshop details and pre-registration information:
<http://www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/index.cfm/4,1413,82,56,html>

Course-management Shoot-Out: Shoulder to Shoulder and No Longer Gunning for Each Other!

Watch the 'big guns' – Blackboard and WebCT -- show us the latest and greatest versions of their products with live demonstrations. Then join Todd Gibby, Executive Vice President of Operations and Peter Segall (formerly Vice President of Sales with WebCT), Senior Vice President of Education Strategy, for a lively 45 minute question and answer session regarding the merger. If you are a faculty or staff member who uses either of these tools, you do not want to miss this session!

Two **keynotes** sure to make you think: Dr. Ellen Wagner of Adobe Systems, Inc. and Marc Prensky of international gaming fame. Known for charting new territories, these two are certain to share new information and perceptions about our world in online learning.

Concurrent sessions in multiple tracks for your various e-learning needs are listed in the conference website. This year there are over 35 sessions! See the updated conference program here:

<http://www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/index.cfm/4,1366,82,32,html>

Join us on the Bat Boat!

(Space is limited – pre-register now)

For some big Austin Town Lake fun, join friends for a 3-hour sunset dinner cruise as we navigate Town Lake and watch North America's largest bat colony take to the skies from the Congress Avenue Bridge. Educational and exhilarating, this event is something you won't soon forget. As a result of the generous sponsorship of Blackboard for IOL 2006, this exciting event is only \$25 per person and includes a fajita dinner! Come get batty with us at IOL.

Look at the photos on this page:

<http://www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/index.cfm/4,1415,82,56,html>

Questions? Contact Marta Hubbard, Conference Chair, at mhubbard@utsystem.edu

See you at IOL 2006!

New Bachelor's Completion Program

Information about UTTC's newest bachelor's program has been added to the website. The degree completion program, BAT – Health Services Technology, offered by the University of Texas at Brownsville, is designed for graduates of Associates of Applied Science (AAS) degrees in the Allied Health and Nursing fields. Students can take 48 credit hours toward the Bachelor of Applied Technology in Health Services Technology online via the UT TeleCampus. Details can be found at: <http://www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/index.cfm/4,1314,82,56.html>

Books and Materials for Summer Courses

If you are teaching this summer, you should have received an email about logging into the BALI system to provide us with a list of your course materials. We ask that you include in your course materials list anything for which your students will incur an expense. If you still have not provided that information to us, please do so! For information on materials lists or help with the BALI system, contact Margie Harris at <mailto:mharris@utsystem.edu>.

Quiz and Test Reset Requests

If you are teaching a course and are receiving student referrals from Embanet for students needing a test or quiz reset, please know that you can contact us for any help or assistance you need. But, please be aware that we will not reset a student's test without being directed to do so by the instructor, as our staff cannot take an action that may affect a student's grade. If you are frequently getting requests for test or quiz resets, we encourage you to review your test settings. The problem may be that you have both "force completion" and timing turned on. These two settings should not be used simultaneously. Want to know more about this issue? Email us at <mailto:telecampus@utsystem.edu>.

Student Incompletes

If you are teaching this semester and have students who will be receiving incompletes, please contact us at <mailto:telecampus@utsystem.edu> so that arrangements can be made for them to finish the course. We can extend their access in the current version of the course or provide them with access to a course in the future. Requests for course access for incompletes must come from instructors (we will not act on student requests, but will refer them to their faculty member). We ask that requests include the student's name, course number, plans for access (the current or a future course) and the date on which the student's access should end.

Financial Aid, Veteran's Affairs and Hazelwood Representative Videoconference

UTTC Financial Aid liaisons are scheduled to meet by videoconference from 2 to 4 p.m. on April 24. Financial aid, veteran's affairs and Hazelwood representatives will be invited to attend. Another videoconference will be scheduled soon for UTTC program advisors. For information on these liaison videoconferences, contact Frances Nash at <mailto:fnash@utsystem.edu>.

Registrar Videoconference

Registrar liaisons met by videoconference on March 27. The discussion focused on the UTTC's plans for an upgrade to the TIS as well as internal registration process information sharing. If you missed the meeting and would like an update, please contact us at <mailto:telecampus@utsystem.edu>.

TIS Upgrade

UTTC is working with Decision Academic [the vendor partner that custom-built the TeleCampus Information System (TIS)] to upgrade TIS. This upgrade will include the remediation of SSNs as the primary student identifier, an enhanced user interface and catalog, improved workflow and notification capability, and the integration of non-student (faculty, TA, course developer) account management. The UTTC project team will be working with the TIS contacts at each campus to ensure that the transition is as smooth and seamless as possible. The upgraded system is scheduled to be in place for the summer 2007 registration period.

UTTC Library Updates – Familiar Resource Gets a New Face

An indispensable resource familiar to those in the UTTC MBAO has a new look. On your next visit to Hoovers, one of the valuable resources in the UTTC Library collection that support business studies, you will notice the many changes and improvements in Hoovers redesigned search interface. Here are a few of the new features that Hoovers is excited to bring to their valuable tool:

- Single search tool with a simple, easy-to-use interface;
- Easy-to-sort search results by key data points;
- Power to control list size and filter search results on the fly;
- Comprehensive;
- More data points;
- Larger executive universe for List Building;
- More companies to add to Watch List;
- Unified;
- One database, one record per company;
- Consolidated tools for quick Downloading, Searching, and List Building.

TRACK Update

With the TAKS test administrations drawing closer, TRACK has had significant post spring break traffic. Usage from August 1st is up to 45,806 student profiles with almost 6,000 of those joining TRACK since March 27th. There have been 75,136 tests started. By comparison this is beyond the stats from last year at the end of week 15 and the administration of the TAKS test (45,677 profiles and 70,529 tests started).

Average visit length is also increasing. The average visit length in week 13 (March 26th – April 1st) was up to 41:44 minutes. The mean visit length was 23:12 minutes.

Advertising Update

UTTC programs are advertised in the following locations during the month of April. **Please note that some placements are booked year round and will appear each month. For example, we index once for the year with searchable databases.** To make a suggestion, please email Jennifer Rees at jrees@utsystem.edu.

- Alcalde Magazine
- Ameriforce Texas Military Relocation Guide
- Billboard in O'Connor, Texas
- Corpus Christi's CallerTimes.com
- Degree.net
- Distance-Educator.com
- GetEducated.com
- Google Adwords
- Gradschools.com
- JustColleges.com
- Longhorn Sports Network (UT Austin athletic programs)
- LubbockOnline.com
- MySA.com
- New York Times Online Daily Headlines Email Ad
- NewsweekDistanceLearning.com
- Peterson's Distance Learning Guide
- Petersons.com
- Policetraining.net
- Sloan-C.org
- TAHPERD Journal
- Texas Science Teacher Magazine
- TexasMonthly.com
- TexasSports.com
- UCEADirectory.org
- UT System Campus Newspapers (UT Arlington - Shorthorn, UT Austin - Daily Texan, UT Brownsville - Collegian, UT Dallas - Mercury, UT El Paso - Prospector, UT Pan American - Pan American, UT San Antonio - Paisano, UT Tyler - Patriot Talon)
- WacoTrib.com

Embanet Report

February Stats:

Phone calls: 126

Emails: 16

Web Forms: 104
Average time to complete phone requests: 8 minutes
Average time to complete email requests: 16 hours and 23 minutes
Average time to complete web form requests: 5 hours and 1 minute

February Trends:

1. Access to Course Area, Access
2. Request User I.D./Password, Admin
3. Request for Information
4. Access to Course Content/Materials
5. Internet Browser Issue

March Stats:

Phone calls 69
Emails: 8
Web Forms: 45
Average time to complete phone requests: 10 minutes
Average time to complete email requests: 12 hours and 7 minutes
Average time to complete web form requests: 17 hours and 1 minute

March Trends:

1. Reset Quiz/Exam
2. Access to Course Content/Materials
3. Request User I.D./Password
4. Access to Blackboard Website
5. Request for Information

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